Application No. 09/850,985

Amendment dated December 9, 2003

Reply to Office Action dated September 17, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5 and 11-14 remain in the application for further prosecution. Claim 1 has been

amended.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1-5 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

U.S. Patent No. 5,225,466 to Akao ("Akao") in view of JP61032743A ("JP '743").

Pursuant to the Interview Summary dated October 21, 2003, and fax correspondence

dated October 23, 2003, the Examiner indicated that the above amendments would place the

claims in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

It is the Applicants' belief that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and

action towards that effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview,

the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 9, 2003

Cynthia K. Thompson

Reg. No. 48,655

Jenkens & Gilchrist

225 West Washington Street, Suite 2600

Chicago, IL 60606-3418

(312) 425-3900

Attorney for Applicants

Page 8 of 8

CHICAGO 270532v1 47097-01059